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Agenda item 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" and to allocate to the Second Committee the relevant chapters of the Council's report.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 36th to 42nd meetings, on 10, 12, 16, 24 and 25 November and 1 December 1998. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.36–42). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 7th meetings, on 6, 8 and 9 October (see A/C.2/53/SR.3–7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225, concerning public administration and development (A/53/173–E/1998/87);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (A/53/406);

(d) Letter dated 14 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the resolutions adopted at the ninety-ninth session of the General Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Windhoek from 2 to 11 April 1998 (A/53/201);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3).

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(e) Letter dated 29 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China, adopted at the twenty-second annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 25 September 1998 (A/53/466).

4. At the 36th meeting, on 10 November, the Chief of the External Relations and Liaison Branch of the United Nations Population Fund and the Director of the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, made introductory statements (see A/C.2/53/SR.36).

II. Consideration of draft proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.37

5. At the 38th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proclamation of international years" (A/C.2/53/L.37).

6. At the 41st meeting, on 25 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Odyek Agona (Uganda), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution, which he orally corrected and amended as follows:

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the words

> "in which, *inter alia*, it stressed that the primary function of the general segment should be an action-oriented review of the activities, reports and recommendations of the Council's subsidiary bodies, and that the Council should regularly review the agenda of its general segment with a view to discontinuing consideration of items not relevant to the work of its subsidiary machinery or duplicative of items on the agenda of the General Assembly"

which appeared after the words "of 24 May 1996" were deleted;

(b) In the operative paragraph, the words "Economic and Social" were inserted before the word "Council".

7. At the 41st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.37, as orally corrected and amended (see para. 18, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.38

8. At the 38th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of *Indonesia*, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and *China*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Proclamation of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism" (A/C.2/53/L.38).

9. At the 41st meeting, on 25 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Odyek Agona (Uganda), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.38 (see para. 18, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.39

11. At the 39th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of *Argentina, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Papua New Guinea*, the *Russian Federation, Egypt*, the *Philippines* and *Senegal*, subsequently joined by *Mauritania* and *Tunisia*, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Public administration and development" (A/C.2/53/L.39).

12. At the 40th meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Odyek Agona (Uganda), informed the Committee of the outcome of informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.39 (see para. 18, draft resolution III).

D. Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council

14. At its 42nd meeting, on 1 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of chapters I to V, VIII (sects. A-C and E-H) and X of the report of the Economic and Social Council[1] and of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (A/53/406, annex) (see para. 19, draft decision I).

E. Biennial programme of work of the Second Committee

15. At the 42nd meeting, on 1 December, the Secretary of the Committee introduced and orally revised the draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 1999–2000 (A/C.2/53/L.50, annex).

16. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, made a statement (see A/C.2/53/SR.42).

17. At its 42nd meeting, the Committee approved the draft biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 1999–2000, as orally revised, and decided to recommend it to the General Assembly for adoption (see para. 19, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

18. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution I

Proclamation of international years

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 and 1998/1 of 6 February 1998,

Recalling also its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

Reaffirming the importance of the guidelines for international years and anniversaries, adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424 for the consideration of proposals for the proclamation of international years,

Recognizing the need to provide for effective arrangements for the proclamation of international years,

Decides that, starting from 1999, proposals for the proclamation of international years should be submitted directly to the Assembly for consideration and action, unless the Assembly decides to bring them to the attention of the Economic and Social Council for evaluation, in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned guidelines.

Draft resolution II

Proclamation of 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/40 of 30 July 1998,

Proclaims 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism.

Draft resolution III

Public administration and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996 on public administration and development,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225;[2]

2. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council decision 1998/220 of 23 July 1998, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to conduct a five-year assessment of the progress made in the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/225, and to report his findings to the Assembly through the Council in 2001.

* * *

19. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Documents relating to the report of the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

[2] A/53/173–E/1998/87.

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1998;[3]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award.[4]

Draft decision II

Biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 1999–2000

The General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 5 of its resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984, approves the biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 1999–2000, as contained in the annex to the present decision.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chaps. I–V, VIII (sects. A–C and E–H) and X.

[4] A/53/406.

Annex

Biennial programme of work of the Second Committee for 1999–2000[a]

1999

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council[b]

Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 2001–2003

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award and Trust Fund (Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112)

Item 2. Macroeconomic policy questions

(a) High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Documentation

Report of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a high-level consideration of the topic of financing for development (General Assembly resolution 52/179 and A/53/606/Add.2, para. 10, draft resolution II)

(b) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries (A/53/606/Add.2, para. 10, draft resolution I)

(c) Trade and development

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board (General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/181 on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/183 on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

[a] The Second Committee will, in accordance with established practice and in pursuance of General Assembly decision 38/429, hold a general debate each year at the beginning of its work.

[b] The list of questions and documentation under this item corresponds to requests for reports from the General Assembly. The list will be finalized after the Economic and Social Council completes its work in 1999.

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/___, developments in the multilateral trading system and the implementation of the ministerial communiqué on market access, adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 July 1998 (A/53/606/Add.1, para. 10, draft resolution I)

(d) Science and technology for development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/184

(e) External debt crisis and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 53/___ (A/53/606/Add.4, para. 7)

Item 3. Sectoral policy questions

(a) Industrial development cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (General Assembly resolutions 47/177 and 52/208)

(b) Business and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and development (General Assembly resolutions 48/180 and 52/209)

Item 4. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

(a) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration and the implementation of the Strategy, including the progress made and constraints therein and on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/53/608/Add.1, para. 6, and article 34 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States)

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements (General Assembly resolution 32/162 and A/53/608/Add.3, para. 10)[c]

[c] Report submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

Report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/53/608/Add.3, para. 10)

(c) Women in development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (General Assembly resolutions 42/178 and 52/195)[c]

World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (General Assembly resolutions 40/204 and 49/161)[c]

(d) Human resources development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 52/196)

(e) International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 52/189)

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/53/608/Add.5, para. 5)

(g) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on proposed themes for the second high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (A/53/608/Add.4, para. 9)

(h) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/53/608/Add.6, para. 10)

Item 5. Environment and sustainable development

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII))[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on the World Solar Programme 1996–2005 (General Assembly resolution 53/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on action taken to implement part IV.A of the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/53/609/Add.6, para. 18, draft resolution II)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/___ on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (A/53/609/Add.6, para. 18, draft resolution I)[c]

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Documentation

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development on its seventh session, including the recommendations of the Commission on supportive measures and activities which will contribute to the success of the International Year of Ecotourism (General Assembly resolution 47/191; para. 18 of the present report, draft resolution II; and Council resolution 1998/40)

Report of the Secretary-General on measures undertaken in the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/53/609/Add.1, para. 6)[c]

(b) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 44/236, annex)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations on how the United Nations will deal with the reduction of natural disasters after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/53/609/Add.6, para. 18, draft resolution I)[c]

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/182 and A/53/609/Add.4, para. 6)

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/184)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (A/53/609/Add.5, para. 7)

(f) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

No advance documentation requested (A/53/609/Add.3, para. 6)

Item 6. Operational activities for development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action from the World Summit for Children (A/53/186) (A/53/610, para. 13, draft resolution II)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

(b) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

Documentation

Report of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 33/134)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/204 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (General Assembly resolution 50/119)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/205

Item 7. Training and research

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 53/___ (A/53/611, para. 14, draft resolution II)

Item 8. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/32 and resolution 53/___ (A/53/612, para. 11)[c]

Item 9. Globalization and interdependence

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General examining interrelated issues to facilitate better understanding of globalization (A/53/606/Add.5, para. 6)

Item 10. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities related to the Decade (A/53/613, para. 14, draft resolution II)

2000[d]

Item 1. Report of the Economic and Social Council[e]

United Nations Population Award

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award and Trust Fund (Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112)

Item 2. Macroeconomic policy questions

(a) Trade and development

Documentation

Report of the Trade and Development Board (General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the implementation of resolution 53/___ on the transit environment in the landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours (A/53/606/Add.1, para. 10, draft resolution II)

(b) Commodities

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects (A/53/606/Add.3, para. 7)

Item 3. Sectoral policy questions

(a) Industrial development cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 53/___ (A/53/607, para. 14, draft resolution II)

(b) Business and development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on action against corruption and bribery in international commercial transactions (A/53/607, para. 14, draft resolution I)

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[d] The programme of work and documentation list for 2000 will be updated in 1999, taking into account the relevant decisions of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

[e] The list of questions and documentation under this item is only indicative of requests for reports from the General Assembly. The list will be finalized after the Council completes its work in 2000.

Item 4. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 50/130)

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of the preparations for the International Year of Mountains, 2002 (General Assembly resolution 53/24)

(a) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 48/181 and A/53/608/Add.2, para. 5)

(b) Cultural development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 53/___ (A/53/608/Add.7, para. 5)

Item 5. Environment and sustainable development

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Documentation

Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eighth session (General Assembly resolution 47/191)

Report of the Secretary-General on measures undertaken in the United Nations system to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/53/609/Add.1, para. 6)[c]

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of ensuring effective preparations for the 10-year review of Agenda 21 (A/53/609/Add.1, para. 6)

(b) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/184)

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the results of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (General Assembly resolution 51/182)

(d) Water supply and sanitation

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing an assessment of the water supply and sanitation situation in developing countries (General Assembly resolution 50/126)[c]

(e) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Documentation

Report of the Secretary General (A/53/609/Add.3, para. 6)

Item 6. Operational activities for development

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Documentation

Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council

Item 7. Training and research

United Nations University

Documentation

Report of the Council of the United Nations University

Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/611, para. 14, draft resolution I)